

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166032

FOR MATLOCK FROM SHINN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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1. SHAUN BYRNES IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONCERN ABOUT HIS AIR FREIGHT. HE AND JILL DID NOT USE THEIR EXCESS BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE AND HOPE THAT YOU CAN APPLY THAT ALLOWANCE TO THEIR AIR FREIGHT.

2. RE MOSCOW 15008, PARA 6, BILL BROWN HAS LEFT THE U.S. EN ROUTE BACK TO MOSCOW AND WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

3. RE MOSCOW 15008, PARA 2, YOUR UNDERSTANDING ON INSPECTION TIMING IS CORRECT. HOWEVER, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE HAD THAT UNDERSTANDING ONLY SECOND HAND VIA US; TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, WE ARE TRYING TO GET A FRONT CHANNEL CORRECTION TO STATE 163019, WHICH WE WOULD NEVER HAVE SEEN
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WITHOUT YOUR ALERTING US TO IT.

4. SCIENCE OFFICER ED MCGAFFIGAN LEFT WASHINGTON AT COB JUNE 29. HIS PLANS REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM THOSE IN HIS JUNE 2 LETTER TO THE ADMIN COUNSELOR. HE WILL ARRIVE MOSCOW JULY 15 ON PAN AM FLIGHT 66 FROM FRANKFURT.

5. RE JOE KRAFT VISIT DISCUSSED EARLIER. WE RELAYED TO HIS OFFICE INVITATION TO JULY 4 RECEPTION, BUT APPARENTLY HE IS TRAVELING AND DOES NOT HAVE THAT MESSAGE. WE ARE NOW ASKED TO INFORM YOU THAT KRAFT ARRIVES JULY 1 ON JAL 441 AT 1515 AND PLANS STAY ONE WEEK. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GALLEY PROOF OF A NEW YORKER ARTICLE HAS BEEN SENT TO HIM AT EMBASSY VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

6. WE HAVE HEARD THIRD HAND THAT ONE OF THE GUIDES WAS "ROUGHED UP" ON THE STREET IN TSELINOGRAD AND THAT THE EXHIBIT HAS INTRODUCED A VERY STRICT REGIME VIRTUALLY PROHIBITING OUTSIDE CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS. IS THIS APOCRYPHAL? BOTH WE AND ICA/EU WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED OF TSELINOGRAD DEVELOPMENTS IN LIGHT OF CURRENT ENVIRONMENT.

7. RE MOSCOW 15008, AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE PASSED TO MRS. HOLLISTER BY PHONE JUNE 29.

8. FOR PORTER FROM MCCALL: RONA SHARP HAS DROPPED OUT OF KIEV ASSIGNMENT TO FOLLOW HER AMBASSADOR TO HIS NEXT POST. HUNT FOR REPLACEMENT IS UNDERWAY. CARPENTER HAS RECEIVED TENURE; AM PRESSING TO GET HIM OUT ASAP, BUT WIFE'S CITIZENSHIP MUST BE SETTLED.

9. IN THE REPORTING ON MATTERS OF MAJOR NEWS INTEREST,
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SUCH AS THE CORRESPONDENTS' COURT APPEARANCE, DISSIDENT TRIALS, ETC., COULD YOU SEND IN BRIEF SUMMARIES BY IMMEDIATE NIACT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE REGULAR REPORTING CABLES TO FOLLOW? FOR EXAMPLE, MOSCOW 14997 REPORTING THE JUNE 28 COURT APPEARANCE OF PIPER AND WHITNEY ONLY REACHED THE OPERATIONS CENTER AT NOON EVEN THOUGH YOU SENT IT BY IMMEDIATE SOME TIME IN ADVANCE. THE SPOKESMAN HAD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS BASED ON THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WHICH HAD ARRIVED HOURS EARLIER.

10. BY FRONT CHANNEL TODAY WE SENT YOU A CABLE REPORTING THAT HEARST NEWSPAPERS TOLD US CLIFFORD MAY HAD BEEN DENIED ACCREDITATION. IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED IN THE US AS A SOVIET POLITICAL DECISION NOT TO PERMIT ANY INCREASE IN THE AMERICAN MOSCOW PRESS CORPS. WE WOULD QUESTION THAT INTERPRETATION SINCE MAY PRESUMABLY IS TRYING TO GET ACCREDITATION WITHOUT A REGULAR OFFICE AND APARTMENT. VIEWS?

11. NOON PRESS BRIEFING HAD LONG DISCUSSION ON CORRESPONDENTS BUT SPOKESMAN SAID NOTHING NEW AND HAD NO COMMENT TO MOST QUESTIONS. WE ARE SENDING YOU TEXT OF WASHINGTON

POST EDITORIAL WHICH MOST DISTINGUISHED FOR WAY IT STOOD
OUT IN OTHERWISE CAUTIOUS, RUMINATING COMPANY.

12. NY TIMES HAS SELECTED LEON LIPSON (YALE), WHO IS IN
LONDON, TO BE ATTORNEY FOR WHITNEY. PRESUMABLY LIPSON
WILL SEEK VISA IN LONDON. VANCE

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